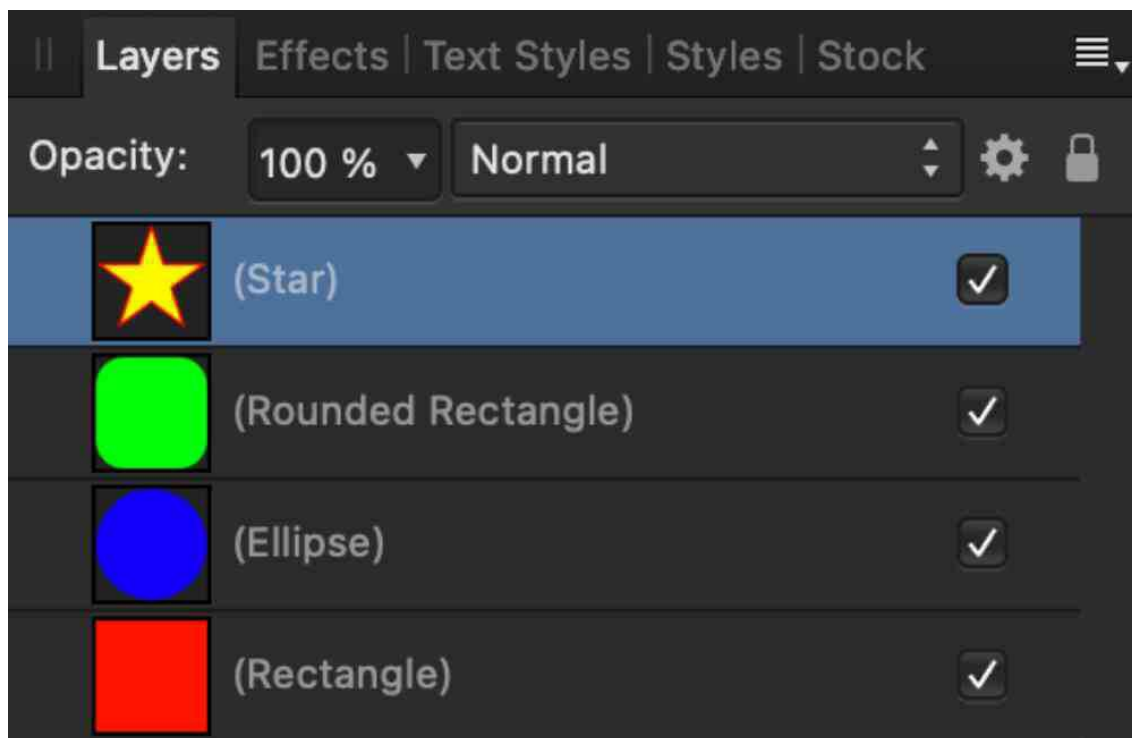


Basics 6: How to Use Layers

Layers are how we organize our work inside Designer. Every shape we create has its own layer. In this lesson, we'll learn how to use the Layers Panel and how to work with individual and grouped layers.

Go to the **Layers Panel** and notice how each one of the shapes we made has become its own layer. Each layer can be checked on & off by clicking on its checkmark (right side of each layer). If you uncheck a layer, its shape will disappear.

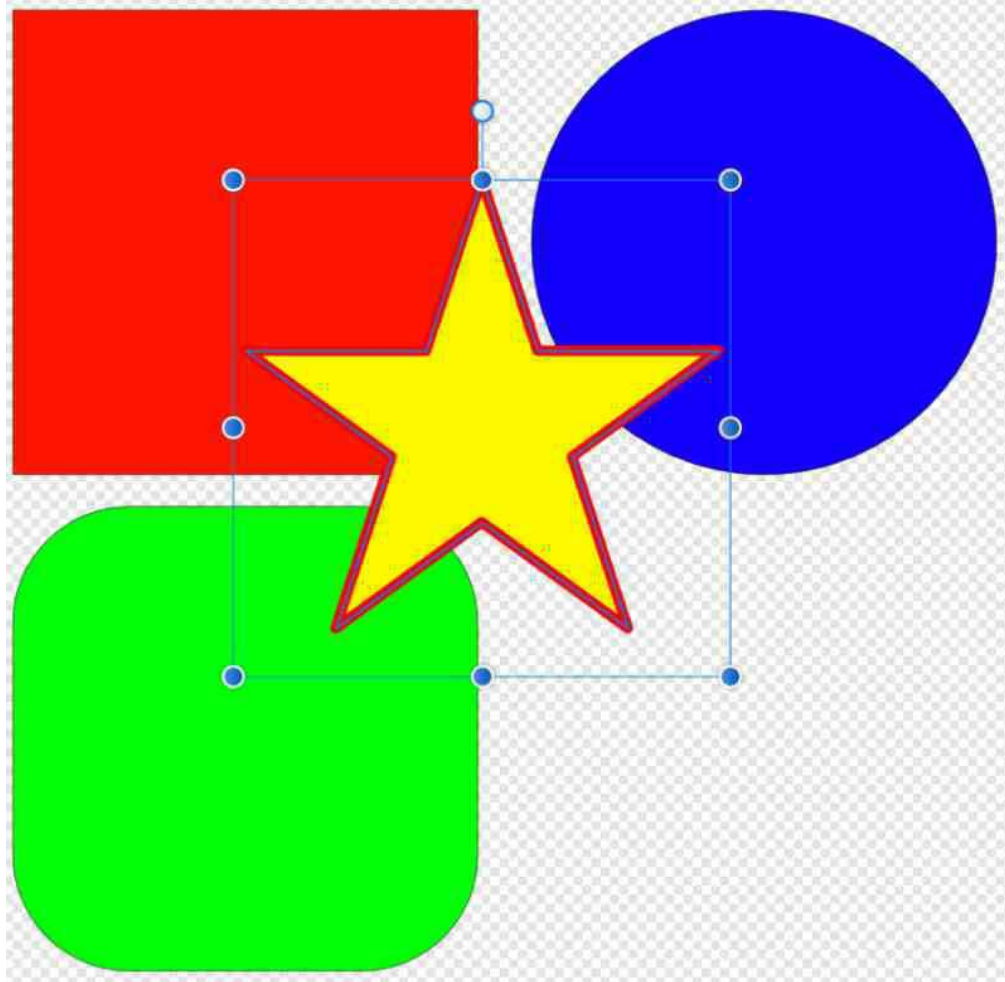


Layers stack on top of one another. So, depending on where they are in the Layers Panel they'll appear differently inside the document.

For example, the **Star** shape is at the top of the Layers Panel and its shape is also on top of the other shapes in the document.

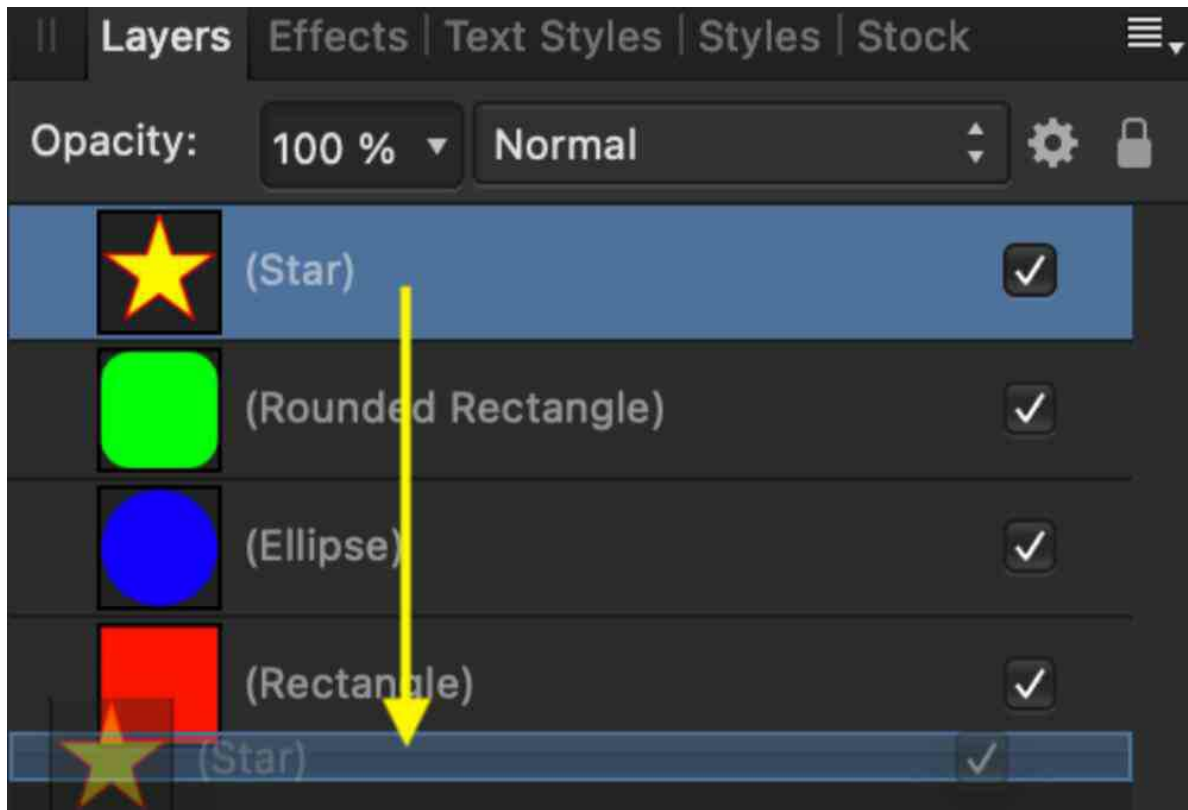
To see what we mean...

*Click on the **Star** shape inside the document & drag it over the **other three shapes**.*

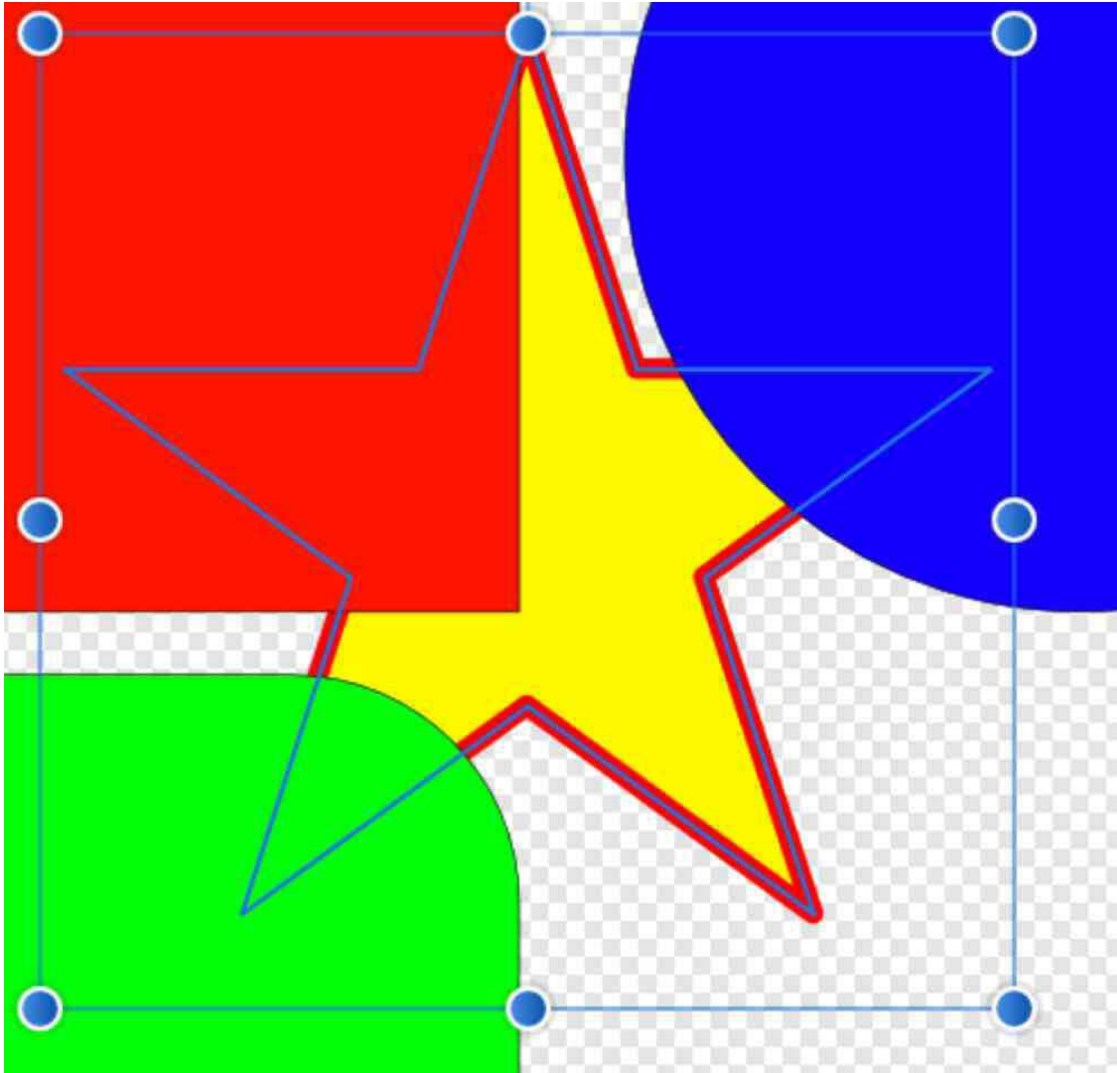


Now, if we wanted to reposition the Star shape below the other three shapes, we'd need to go to the Layers Panel and move the top Star layer to the bottom of the Layers Stack.

Go back to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the **Star layer** & *drag* it to the **bottom** of the Layers Stack (see the yellow arrow for this action).



When you do this action in the Layers Panel, watch how the yellow star shape in the document is now underneath the other shapes.

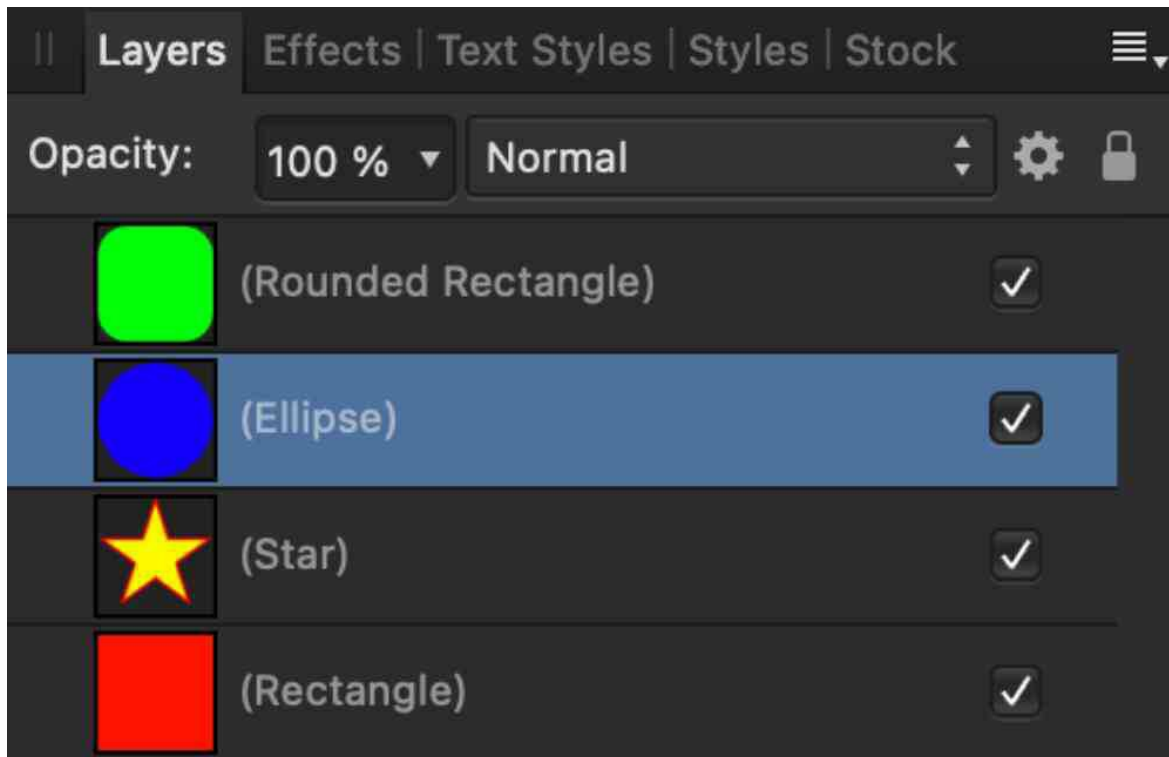


We're almost done. But, before we finish, we want to show you one more way you can move layers and make a totally new effect. It's a bit advanced, but it is a technique we use very often. So, why not learn it now, right?

Before we start something new, let's re-arrange our document:

*Click on the **Star shape** and *reposition* it **below** the **blue circle** and to the right of the green rounded rectangle shape.*

*Go back to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the **blue Ellipse** layer so it's highlighted in blue.*

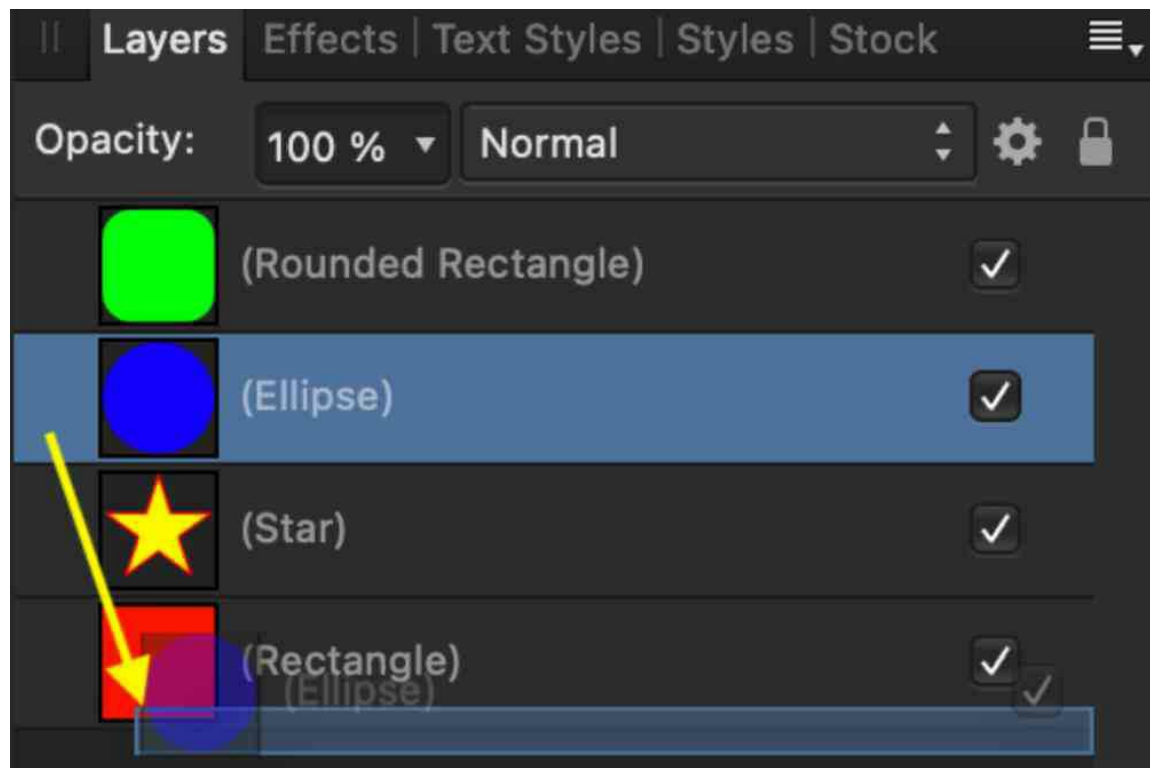


Now, what we are going to do is kinda tricky for absolutely new users, but we'll take the stress out of it. What we're going to do is create what is known as a Child layer. A child layer is a layer that only affects the layer it's attached to.

Note: For you Adobe Photoshop users, a child layer is what you're used to calling a clipping mask.

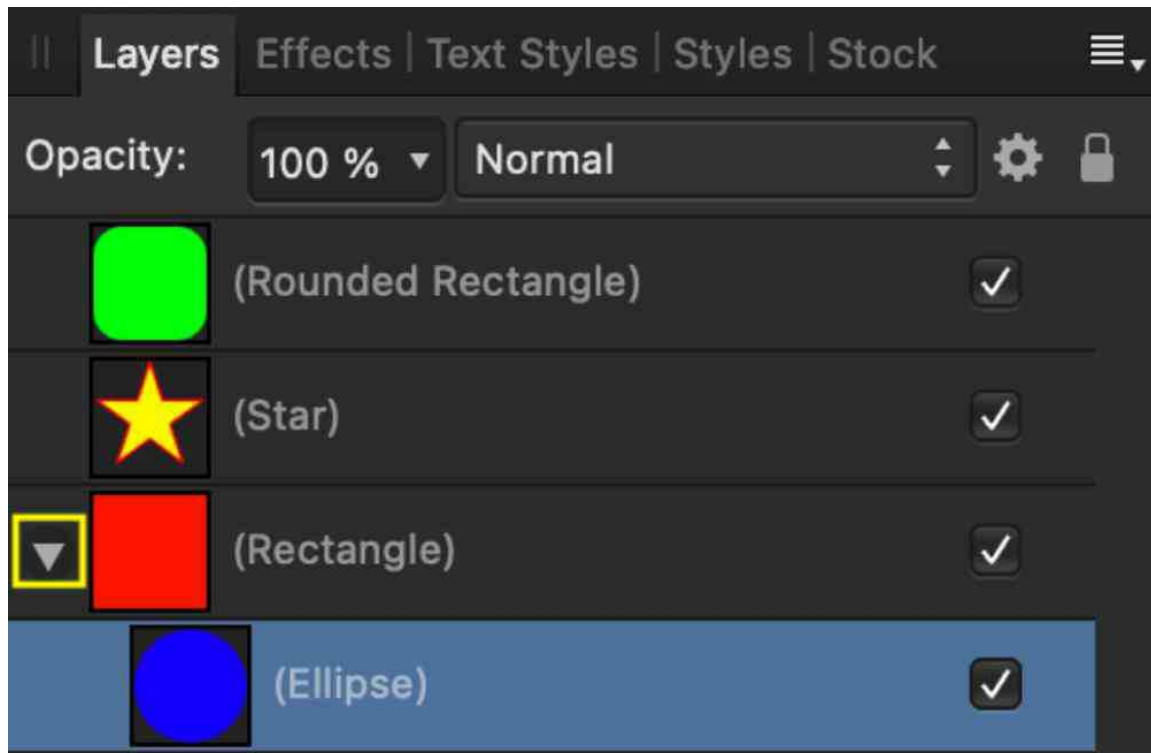
We create child layers by moving a layer below-and-to-the-right of another layer. Normal layer movement and placement is moving a layer above or below another layer. Ready to try it?

*Click & drag the **Ellipse** layer below-and-to-the-right of the Rectangle layer (see the yellow arrow for this action). Make sure the left side of the Ellipse layer is in the position you see in the below image. If the left side of the layer was all the way to the left, this movement wouldn't create a child layer, but a normal layer.*

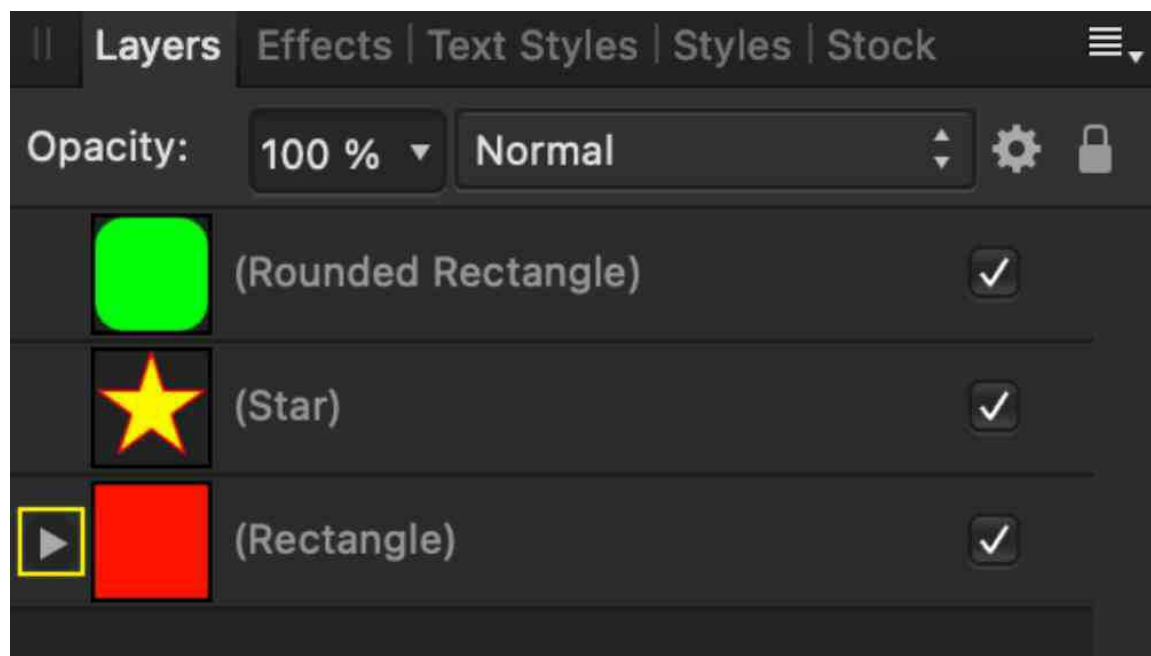


This is what the Layers Panel looks like after you've moved the Ellipse layer. Notice the new position of the blue Ellipse layer.

Notice also the circled triangle (see the yellow square in the below image). This circled triangle is the icon for grouped layers. When the circled triangle is facing downward (seen here), then it is revealing its grouped contents.



If the circled triangle is facing to the right (see the yellow square in the below image), then the grouped contents will not be visible (see this image and notice how the blue Ellipse layer is not seen).

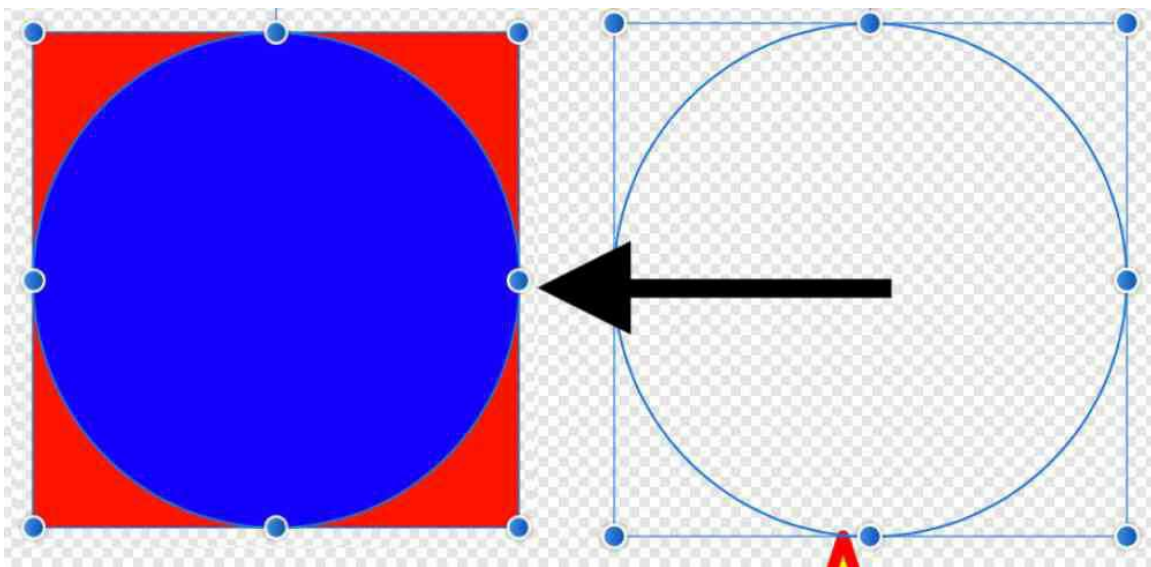


Now that you know how to move a layer and make it a child layer of another, let's see its effect in the document.

Because the blue Ellipse layer is still highlighted in blue (even if we can't see it unless we click on the red Rectangle layer's group icon), we can still see its silhouette in the document (see the circle lines on the right side of the below document).

Click on the **selected Ellipse shape** (it's selected because we can see the blue nodes as well as a silhouette of its circled shape on the right) & *drag* it **on top of the red Rectangle shape**. It becomes visible because child layers only affect the layers they are attached to.

Let us say that again: Child layers **ONLY** affect the layer they're attached to. In this case, the blue Ellipse shape is only visible when its position on/in its 'parent' layer/shape.



Note: We know firsthand that for new users the mechanics of child layers can be a difficult concept to understand, but we promise you that by the end of this book you'll be a pro.

Done. You now know what you need to know about how to move layers around in the Layers Panel and how each shape on the document is affected depending on its layers' position.

Finished. This ends this lesson.